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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 250824Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4743

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 24770

FOR EA/TB MR. ROBERTS FROM POMIL BOEHM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TH
SUBJ: THE NATIONAL AW PAW PAW (VOLUNTEER SELF-DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT) PROGRAM OF THE RTG

REF: BANGKOK A-312 AND 2298

1. GENERAL SAIYU KOETPHON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ISOC, ACCOMPNAYING MFA CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN TO VISIT THE SECRETARY ON NOVEMBER 26, REQUESTED JUST BEFORE HE LEFT THAT WE PROVIDE A SUMMARY IN ENGLISH OF ISOC MATERIALS ON THE AW PAW PAW PROGRAM AND ITS CURRENT STATUS FOR POTENTIAL USE IN THE TALKS. SUMMARY/ UPDATE FOLLOWS. PLEASE PASS TO GENERAL SAIYUT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE RTG'S NATIONAL AW PAW PAW PROGRAM:

A. BOTH THE RTG AND THE CPT ARE VYING FOR THE PEOPLES SUPPORT AND LOYALTY. THE CRUX IS IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVE. THE GOVERNMENT MUST FIND A WAY TO CONCENTRATE ITS COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORT IN THE RURAL AREAS AND APPLY IT WITH MORE EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION THAN THAT OF THE CPT.
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B. THE NATIONAL AW PAW PAW (APP) PROGRAM IS DESIGNED
TO DO THIS BY INTEGRATING ALL RURAL SECURITY AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS UNDER ONE MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE
GOVERNMENT UNITY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES AND RESOURCES IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

C. THE PROGRAM IS AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE VILLAGES
IN THE MOST SENSITIVE INSURGENCY AREAS. THE PRIME
GOAL IS TO GET THE VILLAGER HIMSELF ACTIVELY INVOLVED
IN HIS OWN SELF-DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT, HIS OWN
ELECTED VILLAGE GOVERNMENT AND HENCE IN THE RTG.

D. THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SUCH PROGRAMS IN
THE PAST, THEY WERE DEVELOPED AND CARRIED OUT SEPARATELY
BY MANY MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES. THE RESULTS WERE
HAPHAZARD, SPOTTY AND NOT WELL COORDINATED. THE CPT
CAPITALIZED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S MISTAKES AND CONTINUES
TO GROW, FED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA,
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC UNREST, AND DECLINING FOREIGN
AID TO THE RTG.

E. THE RTG SOLUTION IS TO FIND BETTER AND MORE
EFFICIENT WAYS TO USE THE ASSETS THEY HAVE. SINCE
IT WAS APPARENT THAT NO SINGLE RTG AGENCY AS PRESENTLY
CONSTITUTED COULD DO THE JOB BY ITSELF, E.G. THE
MILITARY, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD
EFFORT WAS REQUIRED, ONE WHICH COULD PROVIDE BETTER
MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND GET THE PEOPLE, ESPECIWLLY
IN THE RURAL AREAS, PERSONALLY INVOLVED. THE RTG
SOLUTION WAS THE NATIONAL APP PROGRAM. IT WAS OFFICIALLY
APPROVED BY PM SANYA ON JANUARY 23, 1974, THE CABINET
APPROVED ITS CONCEPT AND METHODOLOGY ON OCTOBER 24,
1974 AND PM KHUKRIT AGAIN APPROVED IT AND ASSIGNED
IT TOP PRIORITY ON JULY 17, 1975.

F. BASICALLY, APP IS A SINGLE-MANAGER CONCEPT.
THE PROGRAM IS DIRECTLY UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER AND
HEADED BY A NATIONAL DIRECTOR AND OVERALL PROGRAM
SINGLE MANAGER WHO REPORTS DIRECTLY TO HIM. A SMALL
NATIONAL APP CENTER IS HIS EXECUTIVE AGENCY. IT SUPERVISES,
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COORDINATES AND EVALUATES SINGLE MANAGER PROJECTS.
THESE PROJECTS ARE UNDER THE SINGLE MANAGERSHIPS OF THE VARIOUS
RTG MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE VILLAGE DEFENSE AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS. WHERE THERE IS
DUPLICATION OR OVERLAP, THE PRINCIPAL AGENCY CONCERNED IS
DESIGNATED AS THE SINGLE MANAGER AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCUES
ARE DESIGNATED AS PRJECT SUPPORT ELEMENTS TO SUPPORT
THE SINGLE MANAGER. REGIONAL APP CENTERS DO THE

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PLANNING, DAY TO DAY WORK, SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION
IN THEIR AREAS. AT PROVINCE LEVEL AND BELOW, THE
NORMAL RTG OFFICIALS ARE DUAL-HATTED IN APP AND THEIR
USUAL JOBS.

G. THUS FAR THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL APP CENTERS
HAVE BEEN FORMED AND HAVE STARTED TO OPERATE. EX-
TENSIVE SURVEYS HAVE BEEN MADE OF TARGET VILLAGES
AND THEIR NEEDS. FIFTEEN VILLAGES WERE SELECTED
IN FY75 AND 840 MORE SELECTED FOR EXPANSION OF THE
PROGRAM STARTING IN 1976. EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS,
SEMINARS AND MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH ATTENDEES
RANGING FROM TOP LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS ALL THE WAY
DOWN TO DISTRICT AND IN SOME CASES VILLAGE LEADERS
WHO WILL BE CONCERNED WITH THE PROGRAM.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 24770

FOR EA/TB MR. ROBERTS FROM POMIL BOEHM

H. MOST PROGRESS THUS FAR HAS BEEN MADE IN THE VILLAGE
SECURITY SIDE OF THE PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN PRIMARILY
RUN BY THE MILITARY. SECURITY TRAINING TEAMS HAVE
BEEN FORMED AND TRAINED. IN TURN THEY ARE NOW TRAINING
PROVINCE, DISTRICT AND TAMBON OFFICIALS. THE NEXT
STEP WILL BE THE ACTUAL TRAINING OF VILLAGERS THEMSELVES
TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN PROTECTION. TWO VILLAGES IN
PATTANI IN THE SOUTH HAVE UNDERGONE THIS TRAINING,
AND IT WAS WELL RECEIVED. SINCE THE BORDER AREAS

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NOW PRESENT A SPEICIAL PROBLEM, THE OLD ISOC CPM PLAN
ON BORDER SECURITY HAS BEEN COMBINED WITH APP, AND
VILLAGE SECURITY TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE SOON
IN THE CAMBODIAN BORDER DISTRICTS OF PRACHINBURI
AND SI SA KET PROVINCES.

I. THE DEVELOPMENT SIDE OF THE PROGRAM,
TRAINING AND SUPPORT IN SELF-DEFENSE, SELF-ADMINISTRA-
TION AND IMPROVED VILLAGE SERVICES, HAS UNFORTUNATELY
LAGGED. SOME PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN
DEVELOPED AND COORDINATION HAS BEEN MADE IN SOME AREAS
TO START VILLAGER TRAINING, E.G. IN AGRICULTURE AND
LIVESTOCK BREEDING. OFFICIALS FROM EIGHT PROCINES
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN FOR DISCUSSION ON SETTING UP
THEIR OWN APP DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. TWO
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PROVINCES HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR PLANS TO THE NATIONAL APP
CENTER FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

J. THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEM AREAS CAUSING
THE DEVELOPMENT LAG. ONE IS THE BUDGET. ONLY THE
LAST QUARTER OF TFY76 WAS FUNDED, FOR 19 MILLION
BAHT ($.9 MILLION US). CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS HAVE ALSO CAUSED THE TFY76 BUDGET TO BE FUNDED
FOR 19.6 MILLION BAHT, 40 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT RE-
QUESTED.

K. THE OTHER PROBLEM AREA LIES IN OVERCOMING THE
BUREAUCRATIC TECHNICALITIES WHICH BLOCK THE TRANSFER
OF TOP-LEVEL, HIGHLY-QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FROM THE
MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES TO APP AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
IN THE PROGRAM. THIS APPLIES TO FUNDS AND MATERIAL
ASSETS ALSO (UNDER THE APP SINGLE MANAGER CONCEPT
AGENCIES FUND THEIR OWN SINGLE MANAGER PROJECTS).
THE MOI INTERIOR, MOAGRICULTURE, MOHEALTH, AND MOINDUSTRY
HAVE IN FACT DONE SOME WORK IN SUPPORTING APP. HOW-
EVER THE TECHNICAL PROBBLEMS PLUS A RELUCTANCE TO GIVE
UP THEIR OLD, ESTABLISHED CAPABILITY AUTONOMOUSLY
TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND SET THEIR OWN PRIORI-
TIES HAVE RESULTED IN AN OVERALL LESS THAN DESIRABLE
PARTICIPATION OF THESE MINISTRIES IN THE PROGRAM.
U FORTUNATELY THEIR PARTICULAR EXPERTISE AND ASSETS
ARE BADLY NEEDED TO GET THE (CIVILIAN) DEVELOPMENT
AND SERVICES SIDE OF THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED.

L. APP IS LINKED TO THE RECENT VOLUNTEER VILLAGE
(GOVERNMENT) ACT; WHICH IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
MOI. THE HEART OF APP IS AN ELECTED VILLAGE HEADMAN
AND COUNCIL TO RUN THE VILLAGE PROGRAMS. THZ PROGRAM

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THEREFORE REQUIRES THAT THE ACT BE IMPLEMENTED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME RESISTANCE
TO THIS ON THE PART OF SOME OF THE APPOINTED HEADMEN
WHO WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR AS LONG
AS FIVE YEARS BEFORE SUBMITTING TO ELECTIONS.

M. OFFICIALS INVOLVED RECOGNIZE THOROUGHLY THAT APP
MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE RTG WITHOUT OUTSIDE SUPPORT.
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THEY ALSO AGREE THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO WHAT THEY
CAN DO THEMSELVES. SOME HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES
IN THE FORM OF EXPERTISE AND CERTAIN CRITICAL MATERIALS
AND FUNDS COULD IN FACT PROVIDE THE IMPETUS NEEDED
TO NUDGE THE PROGRAM PAST THE TECHNICAL ROADBLOCKS
AND DEMONSTRATE TO THE INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
INVOLVED THAT IT WOULD BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE, AS WELL
AS TO THAT OF THE COUNTRY, TO PARTICIPATE WHOLE-
HEARTEDLY IN THE PROGRAM.

N. THE US HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM BY
FUNDING THE IMPROVED VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS (VDC)
WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR SUPPORT AND REINFORCEMENT OF
THE VILLAGE SECURITY TEAMS. THE VDC PROGRAM IS WELL
UNDERWAY AND CONTINUING. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
UK, NZ AND AUSTRALIA HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTEREST
IN HELPING WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND REQUESTS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES AREA QUOTE PROVIDED
THE RTG CAN GET THE PROGRAM OFF THE GROUND. UNQUOTE.
END SUMMARY
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